

Application No.: 10/618,403

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Docket No.: 549242002300

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment amends claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 13–15, cancels claims 16–19, and adds new claims 20–27. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found at least in original claim 13, and, e.g., page 4, par. 22. Support for new apparatus claim 20 and new method claim 27 may be found in the specification, e.g., page 3–4, par. 21. Support for new method claims 21–26 may be found in original claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 13 and 14, respectively, and generally in the specification see, e.g., page 4, par. 22. The amendment to the title is to conform to the elected claims.

Claims 16–19 are cancelled without prejudice responsive to a call received from Examiner Vincent Nguyen on July 15, 2004, in which the Examiner explained his intention to restricted claims into three groups (Group I having claims 1–15; Group II having claims 16–17; and Group III having claims 18–19). New apparatus claim 20 depends on elected claim 1. New method claims 21–27 are related to elected claims 1–15 and directed to similar subject matter and entitled to be examined together with claims 1–15.

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CONCLUSION

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 549242002300. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: July 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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